

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-04 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25

NEA-10 RSC-01 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 SAM-01 SCI-06

SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

IO-14 SAB-01 /220 R

DRAFTED BY P:JJSISCO: DF

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

S/PRS:GVEST

S/S:SFRY

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O 161847Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

USINT ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT NIXON'S REMARKS ON OIL EMBARGO

1. THERE FOLLOW PERTINENT PORTIONS OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S
REMARKS AT THE EXECUTIVES CLUB
OF CHICAGO ON MARCH 15, 1974 ON THE OIL EMBARGO AND THE
MIDDLE EAST.

2. QUOTE: WELL, FIRST, WITH REGARD TO THE EMBARGO, I
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THINK IT IS WELL FOR US TO PUT THAT IN PERSPECTIVE. WE HAVE

HAD NO OFFICIAL REPORT FROM THE MEETING OF ARAB OIL MINISTERS WITH REGARD TO WHAT ACTION IS GOING TO BE TAKEN WITH REGARD TO LIFTING THE EMBARGO.

THERE ARE, OF COURSE, SOURCES THAT HAVE INDICATED THAT SOME ACTION WILL BE TAKEN PERHAPS THIS WEEKEND.

SECOND, THERE ARE ALSO INDICATIONS THAT THAT ACTION MIGHT BE CONDITIONAL, THAT THEY MAY RAISE THE EMBARGO, BUT ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY MIGHT REIMPOSE IT UNLESS THE UNITED STATES CAME THROUGH IN TERMS OF WORKING OUT A SETTLEMENT OF THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS, THE VERY DIFFICULT ONES, THAT EXIST IN THE MIDEAST, THE DISENGAGEMENT ON THE SYRIAN FRONT, THE PROBLEM WITH JERUSALEM AND ALL THE OTHERS TO WHICH WE ARE DEDICATED TO WORKING FOR A SOLUTION AND WHERE WE ARE WORKING FOR IT.

I WANT ONE THING VERY CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD AND THEN I WILL COME TO THE KEY POINT ABOUT YOUR DISTRICT AND ITS GASOLINE SHORTAGE. I WANT IT UNDERSTOOD THAT WE WANT THE EMBARGO LIFTED. I ALSO WANT IT UNDERSTOOD THAT AS FAR AS THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED, WE WANT PERMANENT PEACE IN THE MIDEAST. WE WILL WORK TOWARD THAT END WHETHER THE EMBARGO IS LIFTED OR NOT.

AND WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS IN THAT FIELD, AND AS FAR AS THOSE WHO INCIDENTALLY SUPPORT THE STATE OF ISRAEL, AS I DO, IT IS IN ISRAEL'S INTEREST TO HAVE THE UNITED STATES A FRIEND OF ISRAEL'S NEIGHBORS RATHER THAN AN ENEMY OF ISRAEL'S NEIGHBORS, AND FOR THAT REASON WE BELIEVE THAT PERMANENT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND WORKING TOWARD THE DISENGAGEMENT AND RESOLVING THIS LONG CRISIS IS IN THE INTEREST OF WORLD PEACE, BECAUSE IT ALSO AVOIDS THAT FLASH POINT OF WORLD CONFLICT THAT MIGHT COME WHERE THE TWO MAJOR POWERS, THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION, HAPPEN TO BE INVOLVED IN.

BUT THE UNITED STATES AS FAR AS THE EMBARGO IS CONCERNED IS NOT GOING TO BE PRESSURED BY OUR FRIENDS IN THE MIDEAST OR OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE OUR OPPONENTS TO DOING SOMETHING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEFORE WE ARE ABLE TO DO IT. AND IT WOULD ONLY SUGGEST THAT INSOFAR AS ANY ACTION ON THE EMBARGO IS TAKEN, THAT IF IT HAS ANY IMPLICATIONS OF PRESSURE ON THE UNITED STATES IT WOULD HAVE A COUNTER EFFECT ON OUR EFFORTS TO GO FORWARD ON THE PEACE FRONT, THE NEGOTIATION FRONT, BECAUSE IT WOULD SIMPLY SLOW DOWN IN MY OPINION OUR VERY REAL AND EARNEST EFFORTS TO GET THE DISENGAGEMENT ON THE SYRIAN FRONT AND ALSO TO MOVE TOWARD A PERMANENT SETTLEMENT.

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE, I WOULD SAY FIRST, WE WILL BE GETTING SOME MORE OIL FROM THE MIDEAST, WE WILL BE GETTING IT PROBABLY BECAUSE SOME ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON THE EMBARGO. IT EVENTUALLY WILL COME BECAUSE IT IS IN THEIR INTEREST TO DO SO. BUT FURTHER, EVEN IF NO ACTION IS TAKEN OR IF THE ACTION IS CONDITIONAL, IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT AT THIS TIME, HAVING PASSED THROUGH THE WINTER--AND WE WERE BLESSED BY FAVORABLE WEATHER IN THE WINTER EXCEPT FOR THE LAST TWO OR THREE DAYS DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH HERE IN CHICAGO AND OTHER PLACES WHICH WERE A LITTLE COLD-- BUT IN ANY EVENT HAVING PASSED THROUGH THIS PERIOD WE BELIEVE THAT THE GASOLINE LINES WHICH HAVE BEEN VERY LONG HAVE NOW SHORTENED DOWN. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE MORE ALLOCATION, MOVE THEM FROM THE DISTILLATES WHICH WERE ESSENTIAL TO KEEP OUR ECONOMY GOING SO THAT WE WOULD NOT HAVE INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT, MOVE THOSE ALLOCATIONS TO MORE GASOLINE.

... SECOND, WITH REGARD TO THE MIDEAST, THE MIDEAST HAS HAD FOUR WARS IN A GENERATION. THAT IS FOUR TOO MANY IN AN AREA THAT IS VERY POOR AND ONE THAT NEEDS PEACE AND NEEDS IT DESPERATELY. AT THE PRESENT TIME THE INFLUENCE OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE MIDEAST, THE FACT THAT WE HAVE RESTORED RELATIONS WITH EGYPT, THAT WE ARE MOVING IN ALL OF THE AREA OF THE MIDEAST TOWARD CREATING A PERMANENT PEACE, IS GOING TO BE ONE OF THE MAJOR LEGACIES OF THIS ADMINISTRATION, I WOULD HOPE. END QUOTE.

3. POSTS SHOULD CALL THE ABOVE TO THE HOST GOVERNMENT'S ATTENTION. KISSINGER

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